

Chapter IV.
Agriculture.Crops.
Vegetables.

Fruit Trees.

Of Vegetables, the egg-plant or brinjal, *badane kái*, *Solanum melongena*; the water-melon, *kalangadi kái*, *Cucurbita cetrullus*; and various pumpkins, gourds, and cucumbers are much grown. Bandy, *bende kái*, *Hibiscus esculentus*, one of the most popular and wholesome of vegetables, is grown chiefly on the coast. The stalk yields a long silky and pliant fibre which is locally used for cordage and sacking.

Cocoa-palms, *tengu*, *Cocos nucifera*, are widely grown, especially along the coast. The cocoa-palm is the most valuable of Indian fruit trees. The milk of the young nut is a pleasant and wholesome drink. The kernel of the ripe nut is largely used in native cookery and yields excellent oil. The fibres of the husk furnish the coir which is so much valued for cordage. From the young flowering stalks a favourite liquor is drawn. The stem yields the porcupine wood of commerce, and the leaves are plaited into mats and other articles.¹

Plantains, *bále*, *Musa sapientum*, of many kinds are grown in gardens, those on the coast having the best flavour. The plantain is grown not only for its fruit but for its leaves, which Hindus, especially Bráhmans, use as dinner dishes. Its stem yields a fine white silky fibre of considerable length and strength, but it is not used. The jackfruit, *halasu*, *Artocarpus integrifolia*, grows so plentifully that in the hot season it is given to cattle as fodder. The mango, *mávu*, *Mangifera indica*; the tamarind, *hunase*, *Tamarindus indicus*; and the jambool, *nerali* or *jambu*, *Syzygium jambolanum*, are common all over the country, both in gardens and groves, and grow to a large size. There are many kinds of mango, but the finer sorts are found only in the Portuguese territory and its neighbourhood, and in some European gardens. The commonest local mangoes are *picha mávu*, a stringy mango; *muge mávu*, a large mango; *kadu* or *appe mávu*, a wild mango used only in making pickles; and *jirge mávu*, a small but much prized mango. Grafts from the choicest Goa mangoes, *farnandin*, *alphonse*, and *monsurat*, are grown by large proprietors.

Of the Orange family the pomelo, *chakkatu*, *Citrus decumana*, grows best on the coast; the orange, *kittale*, *Citrus aurantium*, flourishes only above the Sahyádris; the lemon, *shi nimbi*, *Citrus limetta*, prospers everywhere growing wild in the hills and forests, especially in Supa. Pomegranates, *dalimbi*, *Punica granatum*, and figs, *anjura*, *Ficus carica*, are grown to a small extent both below and above the Sahyádris; they flourish best in the drier parts of the tableland. The custard-apple, *sitáphal*, *Anona squamosa*, and sweet-sop or bullock's heart, *rámphal*, *Anona reticulata*, together with the sour-sop tree, *Anona muricata*, are grown in a few gardens, chiefly on the coast. The rose-apple, *jambu*, *Eugenia jambosa*, is common in gardens, but the fruit is insipid. The papay, *pappái*, *Carica papaya*, a native of Brazil, is common in gardens. It has the property of making meat hung on its branches tender. The

¹ Details are given in Vol. XV. Part I, p. 58.